

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM Emergency Shelters

FACT SHEET

What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded nutrition assistance program that provides healthy meals and snacks to young children in child care settings. The program also serves adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers. In 1999, the CACFP was extended further to provide meals and snacks to children residing in homeless shelters.

Which Emergency Shelters Can Participate in the CACFP?

CACFP regulations define “emergency shelter” as a public or private nonprofit organization or its site that provides temporary shelter and food services to homeless children. This includes family shelters, domestic abuse shelters, and other facilities that provide temporary shelter and food services to homeless children/youth, with or without their families. It also includes sites that do not offer overnight services if the site provides written assurance that the shelter is a legitimate provider of services to homeless children and that the children who receive meals and snacks are residents of emergency shelters.

A site cannot participate in both the CACFP and the Special Milk Program.

Who is Eligible for CACFP Meals and Snacks?

Children/youth 18 years of age or younger and residents with disabilities, regardless of age, may receive up to three reimbursable meals per day at the emergency shelter.

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the CACFP, an emergency shelter does not have to offer formal child care as recognized by a licensing authority. There is no Federal requirement for emergency shelters to have Federal, State or local licensing or approval as a condition of eligibility. If the State of Wisconsin or local jurisdiction does require licensing, then the site would need to be licensed in order to participate. Sponsors should contact the regional office of the Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care Regulation, in regard to issues involving the need for a child care license.

If licensing is not required, a site would need to meet State or local health and safety standards. Required documentation consists of: (1) a copy of the current occupancy permit; (2) a copy of the current fire inspection report and length of validity; (3) a copy of the most recent health department inspection report, or certification that there are no applicable local health standards; and (4) certification from the City or County human (social) services that there is no local requirement for the site to be licensed for group child care services.

Meal Service

All participating sites must serve meals that meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements and must maintain a nonprofit food service. Reimbursable meals include breakfast, lunch, supper and snacks, on weekdays and weekends. Sites may receive reimbursement for up to three meals (breakfast, lunch, and supper) **or** two meals and one snack for each resident child each day. Shelter residents may prepare and serve their own meals if the shelter provides supervision of the meal preparation and service, and the shelter can ensure that:

- The meal is served in a congregate setting;
- The meal meets the CACFP meal pattern requirements; and
- A correct meal count is taken.

All sites must maintain a daily roster of children receiving meals, total meal counts by type, and menus for all meals served to eligible infants and children.

Reimbursement

Program payments are limited to the number of meals served to eligible children/youth multiplied by the free rate of reimbursement. The free rates of reimbursement effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 are:

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| • Breakfast | \$1.46 |
| • Lunch/Supper* | \$2.68 |
| • Snack (Supplement) | \$0.74 |

** Cash-in-Lieu of Commodities – A cash reimbursement of \$0.1950 for each lunch and/or supper served will be paid this fiscal year.*

Reimbursement may not be claimed for meal vouchers.

Administering Agency

In Wisconsin, the CACFP is administered by the Department of Public Instruction. For additional information call (608) 267-9129, visit <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/index.html>, or write to:

Community Nutrition Programs
Department of Public Instruction
PO Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707

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